

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SSM-03 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /072 W

----- 041498

R 261435Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9138

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 7503

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS SY

SUBJECT: CABINET FAILS TO ACT ON FOUR NEW GOLAN SETTLEMENTS

REF: TEL AVIV 5891

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI PRESS, CABINET DECLINED AT ITS MEETING NOV 23 TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH FOUR NEW SETTLEMENTS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PENDING SINCE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SETTLEMENTS REFERRED ISSUE TO FULL CABINET SEPT 9 (PARA 4 REFTEL).

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT TOURISM MINISTER KOL (ILP) SUGGESTED THAT CABINET APPROVE THE SETTLEMENTS AS APPROPRIATE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACK LAST WEEK ON GOLAN SETTLEMENT OF RAMAT MAGSHIMIM. HE WAS REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY MINISTERS YADLIN (LABOR MAPAI), HILLEL (LABOR MAPAI), RAPHAEL (NRP) AND HAMMER (NRP YOUNG GUARD). THE QUESTION
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WAS NOT, HOWEVER, PLACED ON THE AGENDA AND DISCUSSION WAS

AGAIN POSTPONED. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS WE HAVE DISCUSSED ISSUE OF THE FOUR PENDING SETTLEMENTS WITH LEADERS OF VARIOUS KIBBUTZIM FEDERATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTLEMENTS ON GOLAN. CONSENSUS IS THAT PM RABIN, WHO HAS CONTROL OVER TIMING OF MATTERS COMING BEFORE CABINET, WILL NOT PLACE ITEM ON AGENDA AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER SYRIAN DECISION ON UNDOF MANDATE. THERE APPEARS TO BE TACIT AGREEMENT BY MOST PARTISANS ON EITHER SIDE OF QUESTION NOT TO PRESS FOR DECISION UNTIL THAT TIME.

4. ONE LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL INVOLVED WITH SETTLEMENT QUESTIONS HAS TOLD US THAT AS LONG AS THERE APPEARS TO BE A POSSIBILITY OF SOME MOVEMENT WITH SYRIA, RABIN SHOULD BE ABLE TO STAVE OFF PRESSURES FOR APPROVAL OF THE FOUR NEW SETTLEMENTS. SHOULD SUCH MOVEMENT CLEARLY BECOME IMPOSSIBLE, HOWEVER, HE WOULD NO LONGER BE IN STRONG POSITION TO RESIST.

5. THE FOUR SITES IN QUESTION ARE ACTUALLY DESIGNED TO BE TEMPORARY "PRE-SETTLEMENTS" OF A PARAMILITARY NATURE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE IN FAVOR OF THEIR ESTABLISHMENT PROPOSED THEM IN THIS WAY IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THEIR PROSPECTS FOR APPROVAL. ON THE CONTRARY, SOME MINISTERS HAVE OPPOSED THEIR APPROVAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT ONLY THE IDF CAN PROPOSE PARAMILITARY SETTLEMENTS.

6. THE FOUR SETTLEMENTS ARE ALL TO BE LOCATED IN THE "GAP" CURRENTLY EXISTING BETWEEN EIN ZIVAN TO THE NORTH AND RAMAT MAGSHIMIM TO THE SOUTH. (THIS IS THE GAP THROUGH WHICH ONE TERRORIST BAND REPORTEDLY INFILTRATED ON OCTOBER 28 AND APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AREA OF ENTRY FOR GROUP THAT ATTACKED RAMAT MAGSHIMIM NOV 20.) NUCLEUS OF ONE OF SETTLEMENTS, YONATAN, IS COMPOSED OF ABOUT A DOZEN YOUNG GUSH EMUNIM ADVOCATES CURRENTLY ENCAMPED AT BASE OF TEL FARJ.
DUNNIGAN

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